

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association
 Minutes -September 5, 2019, 7:00 pm
 Swegle Elementary School, 1751 Aguilas Ct NE, Salem

	Board Chairs/Members Present		Others Present
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair	x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair	x	Tammi Starrs, City of Salem Public Works
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice-Chair	x	Jule Warncke, City of Salem Public Works
x	Chesta Bauer, Secretary	x	S. Slivkoff, Salem Police Department
x	Dave Steiner, Member-at-large	x	Hans Thygeson, Creations Northwest
x	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		
x	Lori Lazo, Member-at-large		
	Fred Wright, Member-at-large		

Neighbors Present: Chuck Westbrook, Ronald & Wanda Webster, Lorrie Crumbling, Jean Powell, Pamela Hames, Patricia Mick, Teri Daly, Jim Quinlan, Mike Sim, Lynette Horton.

Introductions/Approval of Minutes: The meeting was opened by Co-chair Susann Kaltwasser at 7:00 pm. The minutes of the August, 2019, meeting were approved with the following change: Mike Sim is no longer an ELNA Board member so his name was removed from the list of Board members. Sue Fowler moved and Dave Steiner seconded a motion to approve the minutes with the noted change. The motion was passed.

Police Officer Report: Officer Slivkoff said that there were two car break-ins, two burglaries, and one stolen car in the area. She reminded us to keep our houses and cars locked up and keep valuables out of sight. There were arson fires at a house on Weathers Street and at a church on Lansing Street which were allegedly set by the same person who the police are looking for. There was mention of a homeless camp on 45th Street. This is considered to be trespassing. Officer Slivkoff said that if you see something like this or other suspicious activities, call it in right away to the non-emergency line (unless it's an emergency). If there is a delay in calling, often it's not possible to investigate the matter. Also this helps the police to keep track of where such incidents are happening and can help in detecting patterns of misbehavior in a neighborhood. This also applies to theft of bags of bottles and cans. There was a shooting on Clay Street near Market Street. There have been some arrests for this shooting, but the police are still working on looking for others. There was mention of fireworks going off. The Officer said to call this in to the non-emergency line. There was another question about reporting graffiti. This needs to be reported to the Salem Police graffiti line at 503-371-4264 or email to graffiti@cityofsalem.net, or fill out the form at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/report-graffiti.aspx> and fax it to 503-588-6135. You should also take a picture of the graffiti and send that with your report. Officer Slivkoff said that crime reports show that the crime rate has not gone up. It remains stable on most things. Recently, there was a police sweep that helped to get several criminals off the street. We were encouraged to form Neighborhood Watch groups on our streets. A Salem police officer will help to get a group started and give information on what to look for and on putting up a sign. Clark Hazlett mentioned closing the walkway between Weathers and 45th Street. He has brought this subject up at several ELNA meetings and has asked the Public Works Department to do it but nothing has been communicated about the situation and nothing has been done. The walkway has been used for drug deals, homeless sleeping area, etc. The Officer said that the police would like problem walkways to be closed but there is concern that this would restrict access to stores and services for people living in the areas around 45th Street. She also said that some walkways that have been closed have become places for homeless encampments.

City Councilor Report:

- Chris discussed the issue of collecting additional revenues for City services that the City Council has been considering. The City Council decided to refer to the voters the proposed plan to institute a employee tax on all persons regardless of residence who have jobs in the City of Salem. This will

probably be on the ballot for the May election. The proposal to put an operating fee on the City utility bills was tabled and will be reconsidered in the future. If the City does not receive additional revenues there will be cuts in services. Chris didn't know which services would be cut but he mentioned discretionary programs such as reducing library hours. Susann mentioned that the City Manager was doing an efficiency study and in the budget process in May he made it very clear that without more revenue, they won't be able to maintain the level of services we have now. Clark asked about implementing an average pay structure for the Salem utility bill. This would allow equal payments every month for the utilities based on the average annual amount paid by the user. Chris said that the City is doing data collecting on this and has plans for developing this payment method.

- Chris discussed the public comment meetings that the City is having in order to get input on the proposed sit/lie ordinance that would restrict sleeping or lying on city sidewalks from 7 am to 9 pm or to erect structures on sidewalks at any time. One meeting has been held and another is being held at the Salem Public Library Loucks Auditorium on September 13. There was discussion of the dissatisfaction with the last meeting in that there was not enough time for people to give their comments. Chris explained that this was because the moderator had a family emergency so the meeting didn't go as planned. He said the next meeting would have adequate time for public comments. Susann recorded the meeting and will put it on ELNA's Facebook page. Chris said that the ordinance will go to the City Council for public comments at the second meeting in September or the first meeting in October. Chuck Westbrook mentioned the amount of panhandling he encountered when frequenting businesses around Lancaster Drive NE. He said he has had people come up to him asking for money even as he is getting out of his car.
- The Fisher Road extension to Market Street project should be completed by mid-October. There was a delay due to late delivery of poles needed for the project.
- The McKay Park playground equipment installation has been completed.
- The driveway leading out of the Blanchet High School on the north side of the campus will be opened up to Sunnyview Road NE across from Hollywood Drive NE. It was noted that this was not mentioned in the plan for the south campus improvement project for the football field, however, this driveway was supposed to be open anyway since it allows access for fire trucks, if needed.
- Saturday bus service started on September 1 and the fare will be free for everybody on every Saturday in September.
- Chris mentioned some upcoming events: Hispanic heritage celebration on September 13 at the Capitol building, and volunteer recognition on September 16 at the library.
- Chris reported on the beginning of Phase II of the Our Salem project, a multi-year project to update the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan which will guide development in the Salem area. There are several public workshops coming up in October which Chris said are important to attend since the outcomes of these workshops will be used to plan for Salem's future. There will be three meetings in October; the schedule can be accessed at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/our-salem>. Susann said that she will invite the staff of this project to come to an ELNA meeting.
- The City Council will have a work session on September 21 to discuss economic development and enterprise zones. This is a precursor to having a meeting of business people in the NE area in order to discuss an enterprise zone for the area.
- The dhm-McGuire Research firm is conducting a customer satisfaction survey about the city of Salem.
- The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting an address verification project in the area for the next few weeks. The workers hired for this project will have photo identification and a bag and laptop with the Census 2020 logo and they will be canvassing around Salem until mid-October. A computer picks which houses are to be canvassed and the workers will also be asking about who lives in the residence.
- There were comments about the signage at the Market Street northbound I-5 exit that is in a bad spot. Drivers can't see people crossing the street because of the one-way sign. Chris said this is a State ODOT issue but he would try to get information on this.

Street Projects in East Salem Presentation - Public Works Department: Julie Warncke and Tammi Starrs gave a presentation on the transportation projects planned for future construction:

- Hollywood and Silverton Road: A new signal light and addition of bike lanes and sidewalks on Hollywood Avenue from Silverton Road to Greenfield Lane.
- Two street lights on Tierra Drive south of Market Street intersection.
- Sunnyview Road and Scotsman Lane: pedestrian safety islands.
- Sunnyview & Lancaster: crosswalk improvement, additional street lighting, median island.
- Pedestrian countdown signals on Lancaster Drive cross-streets, D Street, Market Street, and Sunnyview Road.
- Reflector frames for signal lights all around the area and more left turn signals will be converted to flashing yellow.
- D Street & Lancaster Drive: left turn lane for northbound traffic - a future project if funding is available. Julie said she would check when this is being planned.
- Gaffin Road and Mill Creek streets will be improved & get back to Susann.
- There was discussion of the signals at Market & Lancaster. The left turn signal on west bound Market Street at Lancaster Drive is too short and people go through red lights. Julie said she would ask about this. Also, this intersection has numerous people going through red lights. She said that observations of people turning going through red lights can be called into Public Works dispatch (503) 588-6333 or (503) 588-6311. The time of day and day of week should be known and included in the information given. Julie also said you should count 1, 2, before entering the intersection.
- Construction in Progress (CIP) reports used to be sent to NAs in January. Tammie said she would send one this coming January.
- There was discussion of the small amount of funds available for construction. The pedestrian safety crossing funds are about \$125,000/year for five years. Projects are prioritized based on where problems have been reported. About one crossing per year can be completed if complex and one to one and a half may be completed if small. In Salem pedestrian safety crossing with flashing lights are planned for Lancaster Drive & Weathers Street and between Sunnyview and Wolverine.
- Jim Quinlan mentioned that there were a lot of speeders on Beth Street. There was discussion of putting in speed bumps. Usually this is not possible because of funding but sometimes neighbors got together and funded speed bumps. The neighbors and the NA could also put in a request to put in speed bumps. Also, a speed reader board could be put up. Another idea is to borrow a radar gun from Marion County to find out the actual speed, collect the data, and provide it to the city. If a particular car is speeding by on a regular basis, you could record the time when this is occurring and give the information to the police. They can then target the location at that time.
- There was discussion of Marion County projects: 45th Avenue, Ward Drive to Silverton Road, bike lanes; Cordon Road, left turn lanes at Haysville and Kale Streets; Lancaster Drive to Monroe Street, driveway consolidation; Center Street, Lancaster to 45th Place, three lanes and northside sidewalk; a stop light at Center & 45th is not being proposed at this time, but a pedestrian crossing island will be put in.
- Marion County Phase II projects: State Street, Lancaster to 44th Street, proposed south side widen, add curbs and gutters on the south side; Connecticut Avenue, MacLeay to Rickey, sidewalks on the west side.
- Signal lights will be interconnected on Cordon Road and along Lancaster Drive to improve the flow of traffic. This is projected for "someday."
- There was more discussion of the Weathers/45th Street walkway. Julie said that the City supports connectivity. It's hard to close walkways because of this. It would be better to make them safer rather than close them. Clark mentioned that the City promised improvements 15 years ago and nothing has happened. Julie said that the City does not have funding for enhancements.
- Susann mentioned that people park right up to the corner on Weathers Street and Tierra Drive at Weathers Park. This impairs vision. Chris Hoy said that this is being worked on.

Information on the Salem/Keizer transportation plans can be accessed at <http://www.mwvcog.org/programs/transportation-planning/skats/maps/>.

Committee Reports:

Land Use:

- **4696 Center Street - Zone Change, project presentation by applicant:** Hans Thygeson of Creations Northwest discussed the proposed development for properties located at 4696 Center Street NE and at 592 Hile Lane NE. Mr. Thygeson was asked to respond to complaints from neighbors of the property about the proposed number of apartments and concerns about landscaping of the property and design of the buildings. Also, the ELNA Board approved a motion at its August meeting to oppose the zone change based on several factors which can be accessed in minutes of the meeting for August 2019 on the ELNA website. Mr. Thygeson said that these apartments will be targeted to the median income workforce and the ground floor will be ADA accessible. They will not be luxury apartments and will be similar in style to the Fruitland Meadows apartments that his company developed at Caplinger and Cordon Road. He estimated there will be 125 apartments and there will be no access to Hile Lane except for a pedestrian walkway. All traffic will go to Center Street and there will have to be some improvements on Center Street. They are still trying to determine where the property lines are so there are no drawings of the building plans or a master plan yet. The property annexation and the zone change to multi-family residential 2 (RM2) will be on the September 17 Planning Commission agenda and the development design will be part of a separate process. If the design meets the standards for the zone designation, there does not have to be a public hearing on it. The apartments may be three stories and will be set back from the property line. Neighbors attending the meeting, Ronald & Wanda Webster, Lorrie Crumbling, Jean Powell, Pamela Hames, and Patricia Mick, commented on the height of the structure, fencing and landscaping. There was concern that the building was going to be built close to the residences along Royalty Circle NE and would change their view from a field to a wall. The neighbors also expressed their concern that the size of the development was inappropriate for the area. There was discussion about whether the fencing should be wood or vinyl and about adequate landscaping that would improve their views. Mr. Thygeson said that plans are for vinyl fencing and planting fast growing trees along the fence. There was some concern about where the water lines would be placed and whether that would interfere with the landscaping. Mr. Thygeson said that the water lines have to be eight feet from the property line and any exception to that would have to be approved by the City. He stated that his company was willing to make sure the landscaping and fencing would provide an acceptable physical and visual buffer to the development. Mr. Thygeson had to leave the meeting early so other concerns brought up by the board were not addressed.
- **East Park Estates Update:** The public hearing for the Planned Use Development (PUD) application for this development will be held at the Salem Planning Commission meeting on September 17. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the staff report which was sent to the Board members and put on the ELNA Facebook page by Susann. Susann submitted the minutes of the joint ELNA/ESSNA meeting to the planner, Aaron Panko, and he included these minutes in the staff report as well as the staff responses to the concerns expressed in them. We discussed whether the Board should wait to review the staff report before we take a position on the application since there are many changes from the original application. There are concerns that Susann identified which the Board should bring up for this public hearing such as: the staff report states that removal of trees is recommended to be done as needed as construction requires the removal instead of all at once. Susann thinks this should be a requirement not a recommendation. Also there are concerns about whether all wetlands have been identified. It was decided that the Board would meet in a special meeting to review the staff report in detail and make comments from that review. The meeting will be held at Mary Sarabia's residence at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 11. Susann will send the comments to Aaron Panko and is planning to be at the Planning Commission meeting.
- **Honeystix - zone change:** The requested zone change to industrial/commercial was approved by the Salem Planning Commission with the provision that if Honeystix ceases to exist, the zone designation will revert to its previous designation, agricultural/residential. Clark Hazlett and several of the neighbors of the property were there and said nice things about Honeystix which was confirmation of the neighbor's approval of the current use as well as support for going back to the former zone designation if Honeystix leaves the property.
- **Parks:** Susann is still working on the grant for a bench in Royal Oaks park.

- **Transportation:** Doug Rodgers from the Cherriots board was unable to attend the meeting but he left a message with Susann that there will be a celebration of the beginning of Saturday bus service on Saturday, September 7, at the downtown transit center. Everyone is invited.

Upcoming events: The CaPES (Community & Partners of East Salem) day of play will be held on Friday, September 27, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. ELNA has a table with information about ELNA at this event and has games and candy for the children who attend. Susann asked for authorization to buy candy for the event. Sue motioned and Chesta seconded a motion to authorize the amount of \$25.00 to buy supplies for the day of play. The motion was passed unanimously. Susann, Sue, Chesta, Mary, and Dave volunteered to help with the activities.

Neighborhood Concerns: 4545 Swallow Court NE update: the Salem Police Department has designated the residence as a problem house. Police officer Pat McDermott and Compliance Officer, Nelson Morales went to the house and found several code violations and said that there can no camping in the backyard, non-functioning cars have to be moved, and the RV parked by the home needs to be moved. The neighbors of this residence, Lynette Horton and Lori Lazo, said that one tent was taken down but they think that people are still camping in the back yard. They can hear loud voices coming from there. One car was towed but the rest of the cars are there and the RV is still there. There was a bike stolen. Susann said that anyone that sees or hears suspicious activities or to report on the car situation should call Officer McDermott. The more he can document suspicious activities the more he is able to enforce the rules. It was mentioned that Salem Police is forming a new task force who will target problem houses. Susann suggested that the neighbors on Drake Court establish a neighborhood watch for their street. The neighbors on Swallow Court should also do this. They only need 60% of the residences to join. Nelson Morales will be at the next ELNA meeting in October and this issue will be on the agenda.

There was a comment that on Hollywood Street signs were seen that featured NOLA and had notation of when meetings are held. We decided that this would be problematic for this area. We would have to have signs made, ask permission to put them in peoples yards, etc. A question was asked about sending letters to everyone in the ELNA area to let them know about meetings. Susann said that this has been discussed but we found that it would be too expensive to do.

A motion was made by Mary and seconded by Sue that the Board approve the minutes of the joint ELNA/ESSNA meeting in August. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Sue and seconded by Dave to keep the same slate of officers as are currently serving. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 pm.